

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES M.
CHAMBERS

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the valuable service of Dr. Charles M. Chambers, Chancellor of Lawrence Technical University, and an advocate of higher education in Michigan and around the world.

Appointed Chancellor on February 1, 2006, Dr. Chambers had served as the president of Lawrence Tech since 1993. He will conclude his tenure July 1, leaving behind an impressive legacy.

During his career at Lawrence Tech, Dr. Chambers spurred an expansion of campus facilities, garnered significant financial support from the community, and spearheaded Lawrence Tech's emergence as one of Michigan's preeminent private research universities. Indeed, just a few years ago I was privileged to have had the opportunity to attend the groundbreaking of the Alfred Taubman Student Services Center, which offers a one-stop center for students combining admissions, academic advising, computer and career services.

Under the stewardship of Dr. Chambers, Lawrence Tech has seen large expansions in research and academic offerings, including the launch of dozens of new degrees and Lawrence Tech's first doctoral programs. He has also overseen a considerable increase in student scholarships and community outreach.

Under his leadership, Lawrence Tech became Michigan's first wireless laptop campus. Exhibiting similar innovation and foresight, Dr. Chambers helped pioneer the creation of learning centers and higher education partnerships in southeastern and northern Michigan, as well as in Canada, Germany, Mexico, and throughout Asia. Recognizing the value of economic expansion and diversification to Michigan, he assured that the University was a founding partner in Automation Alley and the Great Lakes Interchange, an Automation Alley SmartZone.

Dr. Chambers is a life-long advocate of higher education, and has proven a capable steward of an impressive institution. As he returns to teaching at the institution he so vigorously led, I look forward to continuing my friendship with him.

BETHLEHEM STEEL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include for the RECORD the following comments I submitted to the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health at their meeting on the Bethlehem Steel Site Profile on June 16, 2006 here in Washington.

This is an urgent matter of justice for hundreds of former Bethlehem Steel workers and their families, and I believe it deserves Congress' due consideration. To that end I respectfully urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3481, legislation introduced by the Western

New York congressional delegation to resolve this issue by including workers employed at the Bethlehem Steel site as a class to be included in the Special Exposure Cohort. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE BRIAN
HIGGINS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

I want to thank the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker health for allowing me to make this statement today.

I wanted to take the opportunity of your meeting in Washington, DC to appeal to the Advisory Board to recommend that the former workers at the Bethlehem Steel Site in Lackawanna, New York be designated a Special Exposure Cohort.

As this Board is well aware, significant controversy exists with respect to the dose reconstruction efforts at the Bethlehem Steel site. NIOSH undertook an extensive effort on dose reconstruction, but I and my colleagues in the Western New York congressional delegation have gone on record as to the shortcomings of that study, a litany I will not take your time with today. Subsequently, the Board hired an independent private consultant to perform its own analysis, and the results were vastly different from the NIOSH study. Perhaps this is not surprising given the difficulty incumbent in reconstructing radiation exposure that occurred over 50 years ago.

Meanwhile, during all of this debate, study, and re-study, the former, ill-stricken Bethlehem Steel employees and the families of the deceased have waited patiently. They have waited for justice but all they have received are statistics and studies. These workers are not statistics—they are the men and women who, by their efforts, helped America win the Cold War. Now as a result of their work they are sick. They deserve to have their sacrifice honored and recognized, not minimized and trivialized.

We must concede that given the dearth of reliable information we have on the working conditions at Bethlehem Steel over 50 years ago, despite NIOSH's great efforts, any dose reconstruction is doomed to inadequately provide justice to these workers. The only just alternative available to us under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act is to make these workers a Special Exposure Cohort. My colleagues and I have introduced legislation to make this designation, but it is stuck in committee. We have appealed to the President to declare a special cohort administratively, but he has demurred.

It is now up to this Board and the Department of Labor to do right by these workers, and to recommend a Special Exposure Cohort. You are the last, best hope that these workers will see justice; I implore you to act quickly.

Again, thank you for allowing me to address the Board today. I look forward to working with you to ensure that these workers and their families receive the compensation they are entitled to under the law, and the medical care they deserve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, on Monday June 19, 2006, I was unavoidably delayed and thus missed rollcall votes Nos. 289, 290 and 291. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all votes.

HONORING KATHERINE DUNHAM:
ACTIVISM THROUGH ARTISTRY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to recognize the life and accomplishments of an extraordinary artist and activist, Katherine Dunham. Ms. Dunham, whom recently passed away on May 21, 2006, spent her life using dance and theater to fight for civil rights. Now, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of this influential woman.

Ms. Dunham, born June 22, 1909 in Joliet, IL, began her study of dance by taking ballet lessons in high school. She attended the University of Chicago and fell in love with the study of anthropology which led her to receive a Ph.D. degree in social anthropology in 1936.

While attending the University of Chicago, she received a fellowship that allowed her to perform an anthropological study of traditional and ritual dances of the Caribbean. This study sparked her lifelong passion for the country of Haiti. She once said that she felt an unusually strong connection with the people and the land. Throughout the rest of her life, she was devoted to the liberation and protection of the people of Haiti and used her influence as an artist to shed light on the issues Haitians were dealing with. She owned a home in Haiti, called the Habiticon Le Clerc, which was also a resort.

Her studies in the Caribbean also allowed her to create her own style of dance, taking pieces of Caribbean native dances and blending them with modern Western movements. With her unique style and technique, Ms. Dunham was a true pioneer in America and opened doors for Blacks in the field of dance performance. She started the first all African-American ballet company entitled "Ballet Nègre" and was also the first African-American to be a choreographer for the Metropolitan Opera.

Ms. Dunham's unique performances captivated audiences of all races, ethnicities, and backgrounds. This allowed Ms. Dunham to use dance and theater to transcend racial lines and bring light to the important civil rights issues to all who saw her perform. One of her most famous and well-loved performances, entitled "Southland," portrayed the horror of lynchings in the South. Ms. Dunham also refused to perform to segregated audiences, further pushing the race envelope.

Ms. Dunham gave back to the community through opening dance schools in low-income areas. The first school was opened in her home State of Illinois. The purpose of these schools was not only to teach the discipline of dance but to also give youth a productive activity that would help prepare them for success.

Ms. Dunham's fame and influence extended beyond the Americas as she also performed in France, Mexico, Argentina, and Italy. While traveling and performing, she made sure to express her activist message of human rights for people all over the world.

The world recognized and appreciated Ms. Dunham, making her the recipient of many awards, including the Albert Schweitzer Music Awards in 1979, the Haitian Government highest award in 1983 and a Kennedy Center honoree for lifetime achievement in the arts in the